V. *An Account of a luminous Arch. In a Letter from the Rev. Mr.* B. Hutchinſon *to Sir* Joſeph Banks, *Bart. P. R. S.*

Read December 14, 1786.

SIR, Kimbolton, Feb. 24, 1784.

LAST night (Monday 23.) at nine o'clock, a very uncommon aurora borealis appeared here. When I was called down to ſee it, it had formed a perfect, uniform ſemicircle, of the apparent breadth of half a yard, reaching like the rainbow (which it entirely reſembled, only that its colour was ſimple), from the W.S.W. horizon to that of the E.N.E. Some of the brighteſt ſtars of the Bull only juſt could be ſeen through it. The whole hemiſphere was without a cloud; calm; the wind had gone down at weſt; a ſlight froſt, after a warm thaw, was taking place; and, what was moſt extraordinary, there was no other aurora borealis in the heavens till this began to fade away, which then, however, aroſe a little, due N., but without any ſtreamers; the ring had no vibratory motion. If this phænomenon ſhould have luckily been obſerved at London or Greenwich, *data* may be had to determine its height from the earth.

With this view I ran for my quadrant, and found its zenith diſtance on the meridian ſouth 11 degrees. Kimbolton is 63 miles N.N.W. of London, latitude 52° 20′.

I have the honour to be, &c.

B. HUTCHINSON.